UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/901,275	07/09/2001	Arnd Krusche	450117-03255	7558

			EXAMINER
20999	7590	08/13/2004	ZHOU, TING

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2173	

DATE MAILED: 08/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _10 May 2004_.
2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _13-43_ is/are pending in the application.
  4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6)☒ Claim(s) _13-43_ is/are rejected.
7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on _10 May 2004_ is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
  Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
  Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  a)☒ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
  1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
  3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
  * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   The amendment filed on 10 May 2004 have been received and entered. Original

claims 1-12 have been cancelled by the Applicant and are therefore withdrawn from

consideration. Newly added claims 13-43 are now pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly
> claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2.   Claim 43 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite

for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant

regards as the invention.

Claim 43 recites the limitation "the claimed functionality" in line 3 of the claim.

There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public
> use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United
> States.

3.   Claims 13-15, 18-26, 28-30, 33-41 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as

being anticipated by Microsoft Windows, copyright 1998 (Screenshot 1).

Referring to claims 13 and 28, Microsoft Windows teaches a method and man-

machine interface comprising determining a connection of one or more devices to a

network, determining availability of one or more multimedia services available via one or

more devices connected to the network, and displaying a hierarchical view representative

of the one or more devices connected to the network and the one or more available

multimedia services (Screenshot 2 shows a hierarchical display of devices that are

connected to the computer network; for example, the connected devices include the

availability of devices providing multimedia services such as an audio CD drive, a

printer, etc.).

Referring to claims 14 and 29, Microsoft Windows teaches determining a

connection of all devices connected to the network (the Microsoft Windows Explorer

display shown in Screenshot 2 shows all of the devices, software and functions associated

with and connected to the computer system).

Referring to claims 15 and 30, Microsoft Windows teaches determining

availability of all multimedia services available via devices determined to be connected to

the network (the Microsoft Windows Explorer display shown in Screenshot 2 shows all

of the devices, including those devices that provide multimedia services such as the

printer, software and functions associated with and connected to the computer system).

Referring to claims 18 and 33, Microsoft Windows teaches operating the one or

more devices and the one or more available multimedia services represented in the

hierarchical view responsive to a user operation including a drag and drop operation, a

cut and paste operation, and a copy and paste operation (Screenshot 3 shows the user can perform operations such as cut and copy to the multimedia service associated with the audio CD drive in which 16 tracks are displayed; furthermore, Screenshot 4 shows the paste operation and Screenshot 5 shows the drag and drop operation).

Referring to claims 19 and 34, Microsoft Windows teaches communicating multimedia data (selecting a track shown in Screenshot 6 to play the corresponding media file).

Referring to claims 20 and 35, Microsoft Windows teaches communicating multimedia data using a device capable of providing the one or more multimedia services (for example, if one of the audio tracks in Screenshot 6 is selected by the user, then the system will provide the multimedia service, or play the selected track, using an appropriate audio player, as shown in Screenshot 7).

Referring to claims 21 and 36, Microsoft Windows teaches selecting one device from the hierarchical view representation of the one or more devices connected to the network (selecting one of the devices from the hierarchical display, such as selecting "Audio CD (E:)" in Screenshot 6), selecting one multimedia service from the hierarchical view representation of the one or more available services (selecting one of the multimedia tracks shown in Screenshot 6), displaying a context sensitive menu associated with the one selected device and the one selected multimedia service (displaying the context sensitive menu associated with the selected track from the selected device, as shown in Screenshot 8), and operating the one selected device and the one selected multimedia service in accordance with a selection from the context sensitive menu (for

example, if the user selects the play option from the context sensitive menu shown in

Screenshot 8, then the system will play the selected audio track).

Referring to claims 22 and 37, Microsoft Windows teaches communicating

multimedia data involving an operated device (playing the audio track in the Audio CD

(E:) device) (Screenshot 7).

Referring to claims 23 and 38, Microsoft Windows teaches communicating

multimedia data using a device capable of providing the one or more multimedia services

(as shown in Screenshot 7, the selected audio file is played using an appropriate audio

player).

Referring to claims 24 and 39, Microsoft Windows teaches the hierarchical view

is organized in accordance with predetermined, user-selectable rules (as shown in

Screenshot 9, the items in the hierarchical display arrangement can be organized and

displayed according to user preferences, such as by name, date, size, type, etc.).

Referring to claims 25 and 40, Microsoft Windows teaches the hierarchical view

is organized according to the kind of devices connected to the network (as shown in

Screenshots 6 and 10, devices are grouped together by type such that audio track files are

displayed with other audio track files and printer devices are displayed with other printer

devices, etc.).

Referring to claims 26 and 41, Microsoft Windows teaches the hierarchical view

is organized according to the kind of multimedia services available via devices connected

to the network (as shown in Screenshot 10, the multimedia services provided by the

printer devices are organized according to the type of printers, such as Cannon, HP, etc.).

Referring to claim 43, Microsoft Windows teaches the man-machine interface is a

computer program product configured for execution on a computer for effecting the

claimed functionality (Microsoft Windows is a software interface, which provides a point

of interaction, or communication between a computer and any other entity).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4.   Claims 16-17 and 31-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Microsoft Windows, copyright 1998 (Screenshot 1), as applied to

claims 13 and 28 above, and Mitchell et al. U.S. Patent 6,628,304.

Referring to claims 16 and 31, Microsoft Windows teaches all of the limitations

as applied to claims 13 and 28 above. Specifically, Microsoft Windows teaches one or

more sub-networks integrated into the network, where the hierarchical view is

representative of the sub-networks, and respective representations of the sub-networks

are of higher hierarchical order than devices and multimedia services thereof (Screenshot

2 shows the hierarchical display of sub-networks within the network, such as sub-

networks "C:" and "Removable Disk (D:)" under the network "My Computer";

furthermore, the above mentioned sub-networks of "C:" and "Removable Disk (D:)" are

higher in the hierarchical display than multimedia devices and services such as "Audio

CD (E:)" and "Printers"). However, Microsoft Windows fails to explicitly teach the use of a bridge to integrate the sub-networks into the network. Mitchell et al. teach a method of providing a user interface for navigating hierarchically displayed networks (Mitchell et al.: column 4, lines 57-67) similar to that of Microsoft Windows. In addition, Mitchell et al. further teach the representation and display of sub-networks within the network and interconnecting computer systems with a plurality of communication devices such as bridges (Mitchell et al.: column 1, lines 60-63 and column 7, lines 21-43). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Microsoft Windows and Mitchell et al. before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the method for displaying information relating to a network of Microsoft Windows to include the integrating of sub-networks via the use of communication devices such as bridges, as taught by Mitchell et al. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to have the versatility to connect different kinds of networks, since communication devices such as a bridge allows the interconnection of many different types of networks. For example, PC computers can be connected to home appliances such as a VCR and also to an electronic device such as a Walkman.

Referring to claims 17 and 32, Microsoft Windows teaches the hierarchical view is organized according to the kind of sub-networks connected to the network (the sub-networks are grouped according to the kind of devices within it; for example, the hierarchical view of the network "My Computer" contains the separate sub-networks of "3½ Floppy (A:)", "(C:)", "Removable Disk (D:)" etc., as shown in Screenshot 2).

5.   Claims 27 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Microsoft Windows, copyright 1998 (Screenshot 1), as applied to claims 13 and 28

above, and Lea et al. U.S. Patent 6,032,202.

Referring to claims 27 and 42, Microsoft Windows teaches all of the limitations

as applied to claims 13 and 28 above. However, Microsoft Windows fails to explicitly

teach the use of audio video command (AV/C) protocol for controlling the devices and/or

services. Lea et al. teach a method for integrating and operating a plurality of devices in

a network (Lea et al.: column 2, lines 35-56) similar to that of Microsoft Windows. In

addition, Lea et al. further teach the use of AV/C protocol for controlling the devices

and/or services (Lea et al.: column 17, lines 43-46 and column 18, lines 30-34). It would

have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Microsoft

Windows and Lea et al. before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the

method for displaying information relating to a network taught by Microsoft Windows to

include the use of AV/C protocol for controlling the devices of Lea et al. It would have

been advantageous for one to utilize such a combination in order to display and control

more types of devices, including appliances and electronics that input and output audio

and video commands. The user would have the added ability to monitor their home

appliances such as the TV or VCR.

Response to Arguments

6.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 13-43 have been considered but are

moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection..

7.   Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in

this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37

CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the

advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than

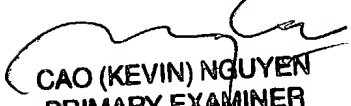SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Ting Zhou whose telephone number is (703) 305-0328.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (703) 308-3116. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status

information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For

more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you

have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business

Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CAO (KEVIN) NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
26 July 2004